WASHINGTON DOUGLASS CHORALE

CELEBRATING OUR SHARED HUMANITY THROUGH SONG

Scott Tucker and Theodore Thorpe III
Co-Artistic Directors for the 2024–25 Season

Lifting EVERY *Voice!*

Sunday, May 18, 2025
5:00pm

St. Dominic Church
630 E Street SW
Washington, D.C.

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for our spring concert!

Established by founding co-artistic directors Nolan Williams, Jr. and Scott Tucker, the Washington Douglass Chorale remains grateful for the opportunity to bring glorious music and our commitment to community to audiences this season. Co-artistic directors for the 2024–25 season, Scott and Theodore Thorpe III will again share the podium for this spring concert.

For millennia, the human voice has been used to communicate the most profound emotions. Today the Chorale presents "Lifting Every Voice!" It is a celebration of faith in contrasting choral traditions: the European sacred motet and the African-American spiritual. Profound expressions of faith can be found in these two different—but complementary—choral forms. Today's selections weave the contrasting styles into a program of rich depth and variety.

In addition to presenting our own Christmas and spring concerts, the Chorale has been honored with invitations for guest appearances. In September, the Chorale performed at National United Methodist Church as part of its "Silence the Violence" program. And on June 20, 2025, the Chorale will be the guest chorus for a performance of Beethoven's Symphony #9 by the New Orchestra of Washington. More details will be forthcoming.

— Scott and T

WASHINGTONDOUGLASSCHORALE.ORG

Lifting Every Voice!

SCOTT TUCKER and **THEODORE THORPE III**
Co-Artistic Directors for the 2024–25 Season

Washington Douglass Chorale

Program

ACCOUNTABILITY

If Ye Love Me	Thomas Tallis
Os Justi	Anton Bruckner
You Must Have That True Religion	Spiritual Arr. by Roland M. Carter

~ ✶ ~

SUFFERING

City Called Heaven	Charles Albert Tindley Arr. by Brandon Waddles
Jesus Walked That Lonesome Valley	American Folk Hymn Arr. by Stanley Thurston

Larry Boggs, *Baritone*

Warum ist das Licht uns gegeben	Johannes Brahms, op. 74, no. 1

~ INTERMISSION ~

COMFORT

Abendlied	Josef Gabriel Rheinberger
The Shepherd	Music by Karl Jenkins, words by William Blake
Give Me Jesus	Spiritual Arr. by Lela M. Anderson

Monique Holmes-Spells, *Alto*

There Is a Balm in Gilead	Spiritual Arr. by Raymond Wise

~ ★ ~

PRAISE

Sing Joyfully	William Byrd
Laudamus Te	Karl Jenkins
Rock-a-My Soul	Spiritual Arr. by Stacey V. Gibbs
Lift Every Voice and Sing	Music by James Weldon Johnson and James Rosamond Johnson, arr. by Roland Carter

Anthony "Tony" Walker, *piano*

The Artists

Scott Tucker

Scott Tucker has prepared choruses for many of the best-known orchestral conductors in the world including Marin Alsop, Gustavo Dudamel, Christoph Eschenbach, Joanne Falletta, Erich Leinsdorf, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Gianandrea Noseda, and Michael Tilson-Thomas. During his tenure as Artistic Director of The Choral Arts Society of Washington (2012–2022), he prepared the chorus for more than two dozen appearances with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. In 2018, a reviewer for the *Washington Post* described the Choral Arts role in Britten's *War Requiem* as "...the most moving choral singing I have heard in a quarter-century's residence in Washington." In addition to his work with the Washington Douglass Chorale, Tucker is Artistic Director of the Washington Men's Camerata and a weekend host on WETA Classical. For more information, visit scottatucker.net.

Theodore Thorpe III

Theodore Thorpe III is a leading voice and contributor to the music field in the Washington area, with experience ranging from conductor to vocalist, pianist, organist, composer, clinician, arranger, and choral master. He has performed as an artistic director, conductor, and soloist at major performing arts centers including Carnegie Hall, the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, the Strathmore Music Center, and the John F. Kennedy Center. He is currently music director at the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA, an artistic director for Washington Performing Arts, and director of choral activities at Alexandria City High School. *The Alexandria Times* noted he is "Inspiring students to soar!" The school's choral groups have consistently received superior ratings and first place at local and national competitions. They have also performed for the U.S. president in "Christmas in Washington" and "Kennedy Center Honors" nationally televised productions, opened for the cast of the television show "Glee," and performed at the opening ceremony of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Recently, he was selected as one of the 40 educators in the Yamaha "40 under 40" Class of 2023 for his outstanding contribution to music education. For more information, visit www.3tmusic.com.

The Artists

Scott Tucker

Theodore Thorpe III

Washington Douglass Chorale

Soprano 1

Irismarie Craig

Gloria DeCoste

Branita Griffin Henson

Aurora Dainer

Laura Kim

Adrienne Neal

Erika Rissi

Elycia Woodham

Soprano 2

Detra Battle Washington

Rebecca Hammonds

Kristen Heyniger

Michelle Maxwell

Lynda Prioleau

Arlene Whitlock

Julie Wommack

Alto 1

Petia Antova

Dana Crepeau

Cindy Jensen

AnDraea Keene

Lisa Sommers

Alto 2

Marty Brown

Monique Holmes-Spells

MyVan Nguyen

Alicia Sokol

Tenor 1

Michael McKeon

Devin Mercer

Dwayne Pinkney

Desmond Thompson

Rob Vogel

Tenor 2

David Flaxman

Wayne Jennings

Milton Pippens

Wrede Smith

Baritone

Larry Boggs

Brian Eriksen

Eric Holmes

Bass

Harold Blackford

David Breen

Charles Parris

Text and Translations

If Ye Love Me

John 14:15–17

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another comforter,
that He may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.

Os Justi

Os justi meditabitur sapientiam:
et lingua ejus loquetur judicium.
Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius:
et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and his tongue speaks what is just.
The law of God is in his heart:
and his feet do not falter.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

You Must Have That True Religion

Spiritual

Oh, you must have true religion
You must have your soul converted
You must have true religion
Or you can't cross there

Oh, you must have true religion
You must have your soul converted
You must have true religion
Or you can't cross there

Where have you been poor sinner?
Where have you been I say?
I've been way down to the river of Jordan
No, you can't cross there.
Where have you been poor mourner?
Where have you been I say?
I've been way down to the river of Jordan
No, you can't cross there.

Oh, you must have true religion
You must have your soul converted
You must have true religion
Or you can't cross there

(continued next page)

Where have you been good Christian?
Where have you been so long?
I've been way down in the valley for to pray
And I ain't done praying yet.

Oh, you must have true religion
You must have your soul converted
You must have true religion
Or you can't cross there

City Called Heaven

I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow.
I'm tossed in this wide world alone.
No hope have I for tomorrow;
I've started to make Heaven my home.

Sometimes I am tossed and driven Lord,
Sometimes I don't know where to roam.
I heard of a city called Heaven;
I've started to make it my home.

My mother has reached that pure glory;
My father's still walking in sin.
My brothers and sisters won't own me
Because I am tryin' to get in.

Sometimes I am tossed and driven Lord,
Sometimes I don't know where to roam.
I heard of a city called Heaven;
I've started to make it my home.

Jesus Walked That Lonesome Valley — American Folk Hymn

Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
He had to walk it by Himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for Him;
Oh, He had to walk it by Himself.

I must go and stand my trial.
I've got to stand it by myself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for me.
Oh I've got to stand it by myself.

Oh, Lord by myself,
Nobody else can stand it for me.
I'll stand by myself.
Oh, Lord by myself.

Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
He had to walk it by Himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for Him;
Oh, He had to walk it by Himself.

He walked, He walked,
He walked by himself.

Washington Men's Camerata
Scott Tucker, Artistic Director

SEASONS

Journey through the changing tides of time with choral music of Morley, Vaughan Williams, Schubert, Hindemith & Mendelssohn Bartholdy; plus contemporary composers like Augusta Read Thomas, Stephen Paulus & Morten Lauridsen. Hear Czech folk songs, German lieder, English sonnets & more, reflecting the varied stages of love & life!

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camerata.com

Warum ist das Licht uns gegeben

Job 3:20–23, Lamentations 3:41, James 5:11, Martin Luther

Translation © by Pamela Dellal

Warum ist Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen,
Und das Leben den betrübten Herzen? Warum?
Die des Todes warten und kommt nicht
Und grüben ihn wohl aus dem verborgenen;
Die sich fast freuen und sind fröhlich,
daß sie das Grab bekommen. Warum?
Und dem Manne des Weg verborgen ist,
Und Gott vor ihm denselben bedecket? Warum?
Lasset uns unser Herz samt den Händen aufheben zu Gott im Himmel.
Siehe, wir preisen selig, die erduldet haben.
Die Geduld Hiob habt ihr gehöret,
Und das Ende des Herrn habt ihr gesehen;
Denn der Herr ist barmherzig und ein Erbarmer!
Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin,
in Gottes willen,
getrost ist mir mein Herz und Sinn,
sanft und stille.
Wie Gott mir verheißen hat,
der Tod ist mir Schlaf worden.

Why has light been given to the weary of soul,
And life to the troubled hearts? Why?
They who wait for death, and it doesn't come;
They who dig for it even out of secret places;
Those who almost rejoice and are happy
That they achieve the grave. Why?
And to the man whose way is hidden,
And from whom God himself has been concealed?
Why?
Let us lift up our hearts, together with our hands, to God in heaven.
Behold, we value them as blessed who have endured.
You have heard of the patience of Job,
And the Lord's conclusion you have seen:
For the Lord is merciful and has compassion!
With peace and joy I depart
in God's will,
My heart and mind are comforted,
calm, and quiet.
As God had promised me:
death has become my sleep.

Abendlied

Luke 24:29

Bleib bei uns,
Denn es will Abend werden,
Und der Tag hat sich geneiget.

Bide with us,
For evening shadows darken,
And the day will soon be over.

The Shepherd words by William Blake, *Songs of Innocence*

How sweet is the Shepherd's sweet lot!
From the morn to the evening he strays;
He shall follow his sheep all the day,
And his tongue shall be filled with praise.
For he hears the lamb's innocent call,
And he hears the ewe's tender reply.
He is watchful while they are in peace,
For they know when their Shepherd is nigh.

Give Me Jesus Spiritual

In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise,
Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus,
Give me Jesus.
You may have all this world,
Give me Jesus.

I heard my mother say,
I heard my mother say,
I heard my mother say
Give me Jesus.

[Refrain]

Dark midnight was my cry,
Dark midnight was my cry,
Dark midnight was my cry,
Give me Jesus.

[Refrain]

And, when I come to die,
and, when I come to die,
and, when I come to die,
Give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus.
Sweet Jesus, sweet Jesus, sweet Jesus
Give me Jesus.

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Spiritual

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul

Sometimes I feel discouraged
And think my work's in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul

Sing Joyfully

Sing joyfully unto God our strength; sing loud unto the God of Jacob!
Take the song and bring forth the timbrel, the pleasant harp, and the viol.
Blow the trumpet in the new moon, even in the time appointed, and at our feast day
For this is a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.

Laudamus Te

Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te.
Glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.

We praise you. We bless you. We adore you.
We glorify you. We give thanks to you for your great glory.

Rock-A My Soul

Spiritual

Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Lordy, rock, oh won't you rock-a my soul.

Well, rich man Divies, oh Lord, he lived so well,
And when he died, he found a home in the pits of hell.

Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Lordy, rock, oh won't you rock-a my soul.

Well, poor man Lazarus, poor as you and I,
But when he died, he found a home with the Lord on high.

Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Lordy, rock, oh won't you rock-a my soul.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way.
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.
Amen.

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Thank You

Washington Douglass Chorale is grateful to St. Dominic Church for providing the venue for today's performance, with special thanks to Dr. Denny Layendecker and Fr. George P. Schommer. The Chorale also thanks St. Columba's Episcopal Church and Rev. Ledlie Laughlin, Aaron Childers, Mitch Guffanti, and John Wickham for providing rehearsal facilities. And especially, we thank the following individuals for their support:

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Catherine Wyler
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*deceased

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Finally, Washington Douglass Chorale is deeply grateful to our talented and dedicated Board of Directors:
Rob Vogel, president
David Flaxman, treasurer
Liz Tankersley, secretary
Hon. Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley
Phyllis Chesley
Milton Pippens
Mark Rochon
Nolan Williams, Jr.

"Power concedes nothing without a demand.
It never did and it never will."

– Frederick Douglass

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